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How does psychopathy relate to humor and laughter? Dispositions toward ridicule and being laughed at, the sense of humor, and psychopathic personality traits

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Running Head: HUMOR, LAUGHTER, AND PSYCHOPATHIC PERSONALITY

How does psychopathy relate to humor and laughter? Dispositions towards ridicule and being laughed at, the sense of humor, and psychopathic personality traits

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Abstract

This scoping study examines the relation of the sense of humor and three dispositions towards ridicule and being laughed at to psychopathic personality traits. Based on self-reports from 233 adults, psychopathic personality traits were robustly related to enjoying laughing at others, which most strongly related to a manipulative/impulsive lifestyle and callousness. Higher psychopathic traits correlated with bad mood and it existed independently from the ability of laughing at oneself. While overall psychopathic personality traits existed independently from the sense of humor, the facet of superficial charm yielded a robust positive relation. Higher joy in being laughed at also correlated with higher expressions in superficial charm and grandiosity while fearing to be laughed at went along with higher expressions in a manipulative life-style. Thus, the psychopathic personality trait could be well described in its relation to humor and laughter. Implications of the findings are highlighted and discussed with respect to the current literature.

Keywords: gelotophobia, gelotophilia, humor, katagelasticism, laughter, psychopathic personality trait, psychopathy

How does psychopathy relate to humor and laughter? Dispositions towards ridicule and being laughed at, the sense of humor, and psychopathic personality traits

1. Introduction. Humor and laughter are typically seen as something positive and are often studied in relation with positive outcome variables (Martin, 2007; Ruch, 2008).

However, there is a dark, negative side of humor; e.g., laughing *at* others that can be a strategy used for putting others down (Zillman & Stocking, 1979). Also being laughed at can be psychologically harmful. Boulton and Hawker (1997) purported that 58 percent of those teased in childhood recalled feeling depressed. Other studies argue that it is detrimental even to bystanders when others get laughed at (Janes & Olson, 2000) or that there are people who even develop a pronounced fear of being laughed at (Ruch & Proyer, 2008, 2009a).

1.1. Studying psychopathic personality traits in relation to humor, laughter, and ridicule. With humor and laughter having a dark side it should also be studied in relation to dark personality variables; one of those being psychopathy. In Cleckley's seminal work of 1941/1988 on psychopathy, several references to humor can be retrieved. For example, "Psychopaths are often witty and sometimes give a superficial impression of that far different and very serious thing, humor. Humor, however, in what may be its full, true sense, they never have. I have thought that I caught glimpses of it in psychopaths and, despite a typical history, was inclined to question the diagnosis. Further observation of these patients gave convincing evidence that the apparent humor, like the apparent insight, was really an artifact" (p. 349). Hints for the wittiness of psychopaths are also found elsewhere. For example, in the PEN model of personality, psychopaths are located on the Psychoticism-dimension (Eysenck & Eysenck 1976, 1978). In performance tests of humor creation, high P-scorers were found to be wittier than the low scorer (Köhler & Ruch, 1996). Pearson (1983) found higher P scorer among professional cartoonists, which could be interpreted as an indirect support for the notion of wittiness being associated with the psychopathy dimension.

Cleckley (1941/1988) describes several cases where humor plays a role. For example,

“Joe speaks of his misadventures with what would pass for admirable humor, and this would have been real humor had there been a contrasting seriousness in his understanding to give it meaning” (p. 151). Thus, it seems as if psychopaths have problems in using and understanding humor appropriately—or confusing laughing *with* and laughing *at*.

In this study, we focus on a dimensional approach of psychopathy—i.e., we want to examine psychopathic traits not at a clinical level. For example, in the Psychopathic Personality Inventory (PPI; Lilienfeld & Widows, 2005), the psychopathic personality is, amongst others, described as immune to stress, thrill seeking and with a susceptibility to deviance with “fearless dominance” and “impulsive antisociality” as higher order factors (Benning, Patrick, Bloning, Hicks, & Iacono, 2005). Other components frequently noted in literature are impulsivity (Zuckerman, 1978) or lack of guilt, manipulative behavior, or shallow emotions (Cleckley, 1941/1988). Hare’s (1991) Psychopathy Checklist (PCL-R), a structured interview, is the most widely used instrument for the assessment of psychopathy. It inspired several test developments that adapted the structured interview to a questionnaire. When based on a dimensional approach (such as, for example, the *Kiel Psychopathy Inventory*; Köhler, Hinrichs, & Huchzermeier, 2006) they allow studying psychopathy in the general population.

1.2. Psychopathic personality traits and sense of humor. Humor has already been studied in relation to sub-clinical psychopathy. Martin, Puhlik-Doris, Larsen, Gray, and Weir (2003) developed a measure for *Humor Styles* used mainly for health-related questions (see e.g., Martin, 2007). They distinguish between *positive* (affiliation, self-enhancement) and *negative* (aggression, self-deprecation) uses of humor. In a study of adult twins, higher psychopathy related to a stronger endorsement of the negative humor styles, while the positive ones existed widely independently from psychopathy (Veselka, Aitken Schermer, Martin, & Vernon, 2010). These findings, although predictable with regards to the known impulsivity and lack of social awareness of psychopaths, may not seem to fit so well with

other dimensions of psychopathy. For instance, Hare (1999) describes their ability to be “witty and articulate” as well as “amusing and entertaining conversationalists” (p. 34), which would suggest that psychopaths do not see or experience humor as something positive (that may contribute to well-being) but rather as something negative or as a means of achieving something (e.g., hurting others by using aggressive forms of humor). Therefore this study will apply different measures of dispositions towards being laughed at and playful interactions in order to broaden the scope of the already available literature.

Kline (1977) argues that if applying Freudian theory on jokes and their relation to the unconscious, one of the assumptions would be that “psychopaths should not find jokes amusing, as they have no need to lift their repression in this way” (p. 7; see also Holmes, 1969; Martin, 1998) as the id is in control. Richman (1985; cited after Forabosco, 1998) claims that psychopaths have a preference for jokes with contents reflecting manipulating and outsmarting others. Overall, negative relations between psychopathic personality traits and the sense of humor are to be expected.

In this study, we were interested in the relation of the *sense of humor* with psychopathic personality traits. Although this term is widely used in research and in all-day communication a commonly accepted definition is lacking. McGhee (1999, 2010) proposes a multi-faceted concept of the sense of humor. Humor, in his view, is a form of play—the play with ideas. *Playfulness* in this sense is the basis for the sense of humor. The latter is composed of six humor skills (enjoyment of humor, laughter, verbal humor, finding humor in everyday life, laughing at yourself, and humor under stress). McGhee developed the *Sense of Humor Scale* as a subjective measure of the sense of humor. The scale consists of a score for sense of humor (a total score of the humor skills) and, additionally, scales for *playful vs. serious attitude* and *positive vs. negative mood* (cf. Ruch & Carrell, 1998). It was expected that specific facets of the psychopathic personality traits such as superficial charm are positively related with playfulness, while others such as the unempathic or callous component

should oppose playful behavior (Proyer & Ruch, 2011). Overall, psychopathic personality traits were expected to relate with negative mood—however, facets such as superficial charm was expected to increase with positive mood.

1.3. Psychopathic personality traits and dispositions towards ridicule and being laughed at. Next to the sense of humor, the way people deal with laughter and being laughed at was examined. Ruch and Proyer (2009a) proposed three different disposition towards ridicule and being laughed at: (a) *gelotophobia* (the fear of being laughed at; i.e., the conviction of appearing ridiculous to others; they do not appreciate laughter and smiling as something positive; cf. Ruch & Proyer, 2008, 2009a); (b) *gelotophilia* (the joy in being laughed at; enjoy laughter by others even at the own expense; do not feel ashamed when sharing embarrassing mishaps); and (c) *katagelasticism* (the joy in laughing at others; do not feel that there is anything wrong in laughing at others; see situations in which they can make others the butt of joke). Ruch and Proyer developed a questionnaire for the assessment of these three dispositions (the PhoPhiKat-45), which discriminates well among the groups. It has already been used in a broad variety of studies from testing people with Asperger's Syndrome (Samson, Huber, & Ruch, 2011) to geriatric populations (Platt & Ruch, 2010).

Ruch and Proyer (2009a) describe katagelasticists with a somewhat rude and antisocial (not as a clinical category though) component. They were shown to be relatively guilt-free (Proyer, Platt, & Ruch, 2010). This fits well to the description of behaviors associated with psychopathic personality traits. In two recent studies, it was shown that there is (from a very early age on, namely 6), in self-reports but also in observer reports from knowledgeable others, a relation between katagelasticism and bullying-type of behavior and gelotophobia and being a victim of bullying-type interactions (Führ, 2010; Proyer, Neukom, Platt, & Ruch, 2011). One might assume that even when psychopaths have a somewhat troubled relation to humor, they would probably not refrain from laughing at others. For example, in some of the case observations reported by Cleckley (1941/1988) and others,

psychopaths react with laughter when being confronted with an obvious lie. One might interpret this in a sense of laughing at those who believed the lie or who have been fooled. This also fits to reports of low levels of moral development among psychopaths (e.g., Campbell, Aitken Scherrmer, Villani, Nguyen, Vickers, & Vernon, 2009). Furthermore, Renner and Heydasch (2010) relate katagelasticism (and gelotophilia) to a histrionic self-presentation style, which incorporates explicit As-If-behaviors that are putatively also used by psychopaths when dealing with others. Thus, a positive relation between psychopathic personality traits and katagelasticism but also (to a lower degree) with gelotophilia was expected. The latter primarily because of the description of gelotophilia given by Ruch and Proyer (2009a) from which, one might assume that when interacting in a charming way with others this presumably facilitates the chance of raising laughs in others (more easily creating a playful frame of mind in the sense of McGhee, 1999, 2010).

In a recent study, a sample of patients with Asperger's syndrome was found to have the highest score in gelotophobia of any sample so far tested for their fear of being laughed at—about 45% yielded at least a slight expression of gelotophobia (Samson et al., 2011). In a different meaning from the current usage of the term, the Austrian physician Hans Asperger (1944) coined the patients later to be diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome with *autistic psychopathy*. They do not seem to share a lot of diagnostic criteria with psychopaths; and as Murrie, Warren, Kristiansson, and Dietz (2002) note they spend “more time at the opposite end of the predator-prey spectrum from the psychopath” (p. 67). They further argue that they are not well equipped for manipulating or exploiting others. Overall, it is expected that psychopathic personality traits are strongly negatively related to the fear of being laughed at.

1.4. Aims of the present study. The main aim of this study was twofold. Firstly, describing how psychopathic personality traits are related with ridicule and being laughed at. It is expected that psychopathic personality traits increase with the enjoyment of laughing at others (and to a lesser extent with the enjoyment being laughed at) while they should decrease

with the fear being laughed at. Secondly, the study aims at testing the relation of psychopathic personality traits with the sense of humor. Based on the theory it is expected that psychopathic traits are negatively related to an overall sense of humor and playfulness. However, a positive relation with bad mood, which could be seen as an inhibitor of a humorous stance towards life, was expected. Furthermore, in Cleckley (1941/1988) it is stated that psychopaths lack to ability to laugh at themselves. This can be tested in self-reports with a sub-scale from McGhee's *Sense of Humor Scale* and its correlation with psychopathic personality traits. This scale is usually only scored as part of the broader Sense of Humor dimension but will be reported here separately as it allows for testing of a specific hypothesis.

2. Method

2.1. Participants. The sample for this preliminary scoping study consisted of 90 adult males and 143 females (one person did not indicate his/her gender). Their age was between 18 and 72 ($M = 33.53$, $SD = 12.18$). Close to one third (29.1%) held a degree from University and more than a quarter (27.4%) a school leaving diploma that would qualify them for entering University education. One quarter (24.4%) indicated that they once had a law related issue (substance abuse, driving penalties, and theft were among the most frequent nominations).

2.2. Instruments. The *Kiel Psychopathy Inventory Revised* (KPI-R; Köhler, Hinrichs, & Huchzermeier, 2006) is a 149-item questionnaire for the assessment of psychopathic traits. It follows a dimensional approach and was developed for the use in forensic settings but also among the normal population. Answers are given on a four point Likert scale (0 = strongly disagree to 3 = strongly agree). It provides a total score for psychopathy but also four factors (set together by 16 subscales); i.e., FA1 = manipulative/impulsive life-style; FA2 = callous/unemotional; FA3 = antisocial behavior; FA4 = charm/grandiosity. The scales are based on the items of the PCL-R (Hare, 1991). Köhler and colleagues provide data supporting

the reliability (internal consistency) and validity (e.g., correlations in the expected direction with the PCL-R, clinical or personality scales).

The *PhoPhiKat-45* (Ruch & Proyer, 2009a) is a 45-item questionnaire for the assessment of *gelotophobia* (a sample item is “When they laugh in my presence I get suspicious”), *gelotophilia* (“When I am with other people, I enjoy making jokes at my own expense to make the others laugh”), and *katagelasticism* (“I enjoy exposing others and I am happy when they get laughed at”). Answers are given on a four-point answer format (1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree). Ruch and Proyer report high reliability coefficients (all alphas $\geq .84$) and high retest-reliabilities $\geq .77$ and $\geq .73$ for a three and six month time period, respectively. The PhoPhiKat-45 is widely used in research (e.g., Proyer, Platt, & Ruch, 2010; Renner & Heydasch, 2010; Samson et al., 2011; Samson & Meyer, 2010).

The *Sense of Humor Scale* (McGhee, 1999) consists of 40 items in a 7-point answer format (1 = strongly agree to 7 = strongly disagree). It measures three domains of the sense of humor; i.e., playful vs. serious attitude (8 items; a sample item is: “I am in a serious frame of mind most of the time”), positive vs. negative mood (8 items; “I am often depressed”), sense of humor (24 items; “I generally look for sitcoms or other funny programs to watch on TV”) that consists of five humor skills (“enjoyment of humor”, “verbal humor”, “humor in everyday life”, “laughing at yourself” and “humor under stress”). Additionally, a total score is computed as a global estimate of the sense of humor. Proyer, Ruch, and Müller (2010) developed a German version of the scale, which demonstrated good psychometric properties. The SHS has been used in a broad variety of studies and proved its usefulness there (e.g., Ruch & Carrell, 1998; Wrench & McCroskey, 2001).

2.3 Procedure. Participants were recruited via pamphlets (e.g., handed out at a railway station) and via the Internet (e.g., mailing lists, websites). It was advertised as a study on “humor and personality”. Participants completed all questionnaires online on a website hosted

by the institutions where the study had been conducted. They were not paid for their services but received an individualized feedback on their results (in the humor and laughter-based instruments) after completion of all instruments. Although sometimes concern is raised about data collected in web-based studies, there is convincing evidence of the usefulness and comparability (to paper-pencil samples) of the data (e.g., Gosling, Vazire, Srivasta, & John, 2004).

3. Results

For a first evaluation of the data descriptive statistics along with a reliability analysis and an evaluation of their relation to demographics was computed; see Table 1.

Insert Table 1 about here

Table 1 shows that all variables were normally distributed and that the internal consistencies were in a satisfactory range; however, the callousness-factor of the KPI-R tended to be leptokurtic. Except for the third factor of the KPI-R, all alpha coefficients were $\geq .74$. Psychopathy (in all its facets except for superficial charm) was related to younger age and male sex. For the sense of humor scale, only playfulness correlated with male sex while the other scales existed independently from demographics. As expected from previous studies, younger males expressed higher joy in laughing at others.

For testing the relation of psychopathic personality traits to humor and dispositions towards ridicule and being laughed at, correlations were computed between the three scales. As Table 1 shows that some of the variables varied with demographics, partial correlations (controlling for age and gender) were computed (see Table 2).

Insert Table 2 about here

Table 2 shows that those higher in psychopathic personality traits clearly enjoyed laughing at others. This was also shown for all of the dimensions covered by the KPI-R with

the lowest relation to superficial charm. The latter was also significantly positively related to gelotophilia and negatively to gelotophobia. As expected the fear of being laughed at was widely unrelated to psychopathic personality traits—however, the factor of a manipulative and impulsive lifestyle correlated positively ($r^2 = .07$). When analyzing the humor skills underlying the sense of humor separately (not shown in full detail here) a few peculiarities should be highlighted. For example, higher scores in the total score of the KPI-R went along with higher expressions of verbal humor ($r(197) = .17, p < .05$). Those higher in superficial charm also yielded higher scores in all six humor skills except for the enjoyment of humor (all between $r^2 = .16$ and $.28$). While callousness was negatively related to, again, all humor skills except for enjoyment of humor, antisocial behavior yielded positive correlations (in both cases around $.20$).

Bad mood was one of the prima characteristics of psychopathic personality traits while they existed widely independent from playfulness and an overall score for sense of humor. Also, there was a zero-correlation with laughing at oneself. Thus, it can be stated that there were high scorers in the KPI-R in this sample who did enjoy laughing at themselves while others did not. The callous and unemotional side of psychopathy was negatively related to gelotophilia; while being charming and exhibiting a sense of grandiosity correlated positively.

When repeating these analyses within the group of participants that indicated having had law issues earlier (they exceeded the other group in the total score of the KPI-R; $M = 1.04, SD = 0.26$ vs. $M = 0.85, SD = 0.19$; $t(215) = 5.75, p < .001, d = 0.83$), results were in the same direction as those described earlier, yet more pronounced. For example, the total score of the KPI-R correlated with $r(54) = .26$ ($p = .05$) with gelotophilia and with $.74$ ($p < .01$) with katagelasticism (the correlation coefficient with gelotophobia was not significant). A few of the other findings should also be highlighted. All three dispositions correlated with FA1 of the KPI-R ($.29, .29$, and $.76$ for gelotophobia, gelotophilia, and katagelasticism). The

relations between katagelasticism and callousness ($r = .60, p < .01$) and antisocial behavior ($r = .40, p < .01$) were numerically stronger. Finally, the relation between katagelasticism and superficial charm (FA4) was not significant in this sub-group. There, also antisocial behavior existed unrelated from the total score of the *Sense of Humor* scale but the relation with negative mood was numerically greater ($r(49) = -.45, p < .01$); the same was true for the relation of bad mood with FA2 ($r = -.53, p < .01$). The sense of humor (total score) existed unrelated from FA3 and the relation between bad mood and superficial charm decreased numerically ($r = .18, n.s.$). All other relations were as described in Table 2.

A multiple regression analysis was conducted for the full sample with the total score of the KPI-R as criterion and demographics as well as the dispositions towards being laughed at and ridicule (PhoPhiKat-45) and the three components of the sense of humor (SHS) as predictors. In a first step, demographics (age and gender) entered the regression (method: enter), followed by the PhoPhiKat-45 scales (stepwise) and the scales of the SHS (stepwise) in a second step. The analysis yielded a multiple correlation coefficient of $R^2 = .46$ ($F[4, 202] = 42.32, p < .001$). For beta-coefficients and incremental validity of the variables entering the equation see Table 3.

Insert Table 3 about here

Table 3 shows that psychopathic personality traits were best predicted by katagelasticism and bad mood. The joy of laughing at others, however, turned out to be the most important predictor. If this analysis was repeated for the sample of those who indicated having had law-issues earlier (not shown in detail here), katagelasticism ($\beta = .77, p < .001$) emerged as the single predictor of the psychopathic personality traits covered by the total score of the KPI-R ($R^2 = .56, F[2, 53] = 23.33, p < .001$).

4. Discussion

This preliminary study provides further insights on how psychopathic personality traits relate with laughter, being laughed at, ridicule, and the sense of humor. While relations with maladaptive forms of humor have been demonstrated earlier (Veselka et al., 2010), the association between greater psychopathic personality traits and a preference of (potentially) harming others by laughing *at* them (*katagelasticism*). This is particularly evident when thinking of specific facets such as manipulative and impulsive lifestyle or callousness and in an analysis restricted to participants, who indicated having had law-issues in earlier their lives. Thus, the question is raised whether people high on the psychopathy dimension deliberately use laughing *at* others as a mean of control and as a technique for achieving their aims. This would indicate using laughter in a different way as it is commonly exerted—as a mean to manipulatively control others rather than using it as a sign of positive commitment and shared joy with others, which is socially bonding.

Based on Ruch and Proyer's (2009a) description of gelotophiles, it is no surprise that Factor IV of the KPI-R (superficial charm and grandiosity) relates to greater joy being laughed at. Being able to make others laugh at oneself demands a certain degree of social skills. For example, being charming while telling stories of own mishaps and misfortunes is surely a facilitating factor for raising laughs by others. This would also confirm the description offered by Hare (1999) that psychopaths are often witty and amusing. Thus, one might expect, in general, that psychopaths seeking attention by others might engage in making others laugh—and if it suits the purpose also raising laughs at the own person albeit in a contrived manner. This also fits to some of the case examples given in Cleckley (1941/1988). Unexpectedly, gelotophobia is not negatively related to psychopathic personality traits in all of its facets. Especially, the component of a manipulative and impulsive lifestyle seems to relate partially to a fear of being laughed at. One might argue that the paranoid component of gelotophobia (Ruch & Proyer, 2009b) as well as their misperception of own abilities and competencies (Proyer & Ruch, 2009ab; Ruch, Beermann,

& Proyer, 2009) in sense of poor control mechanisms of own ideas and acts comes into play here.

As expected, psychopathic personality traits existed independently from (facets of) the sense of humor—as were self-reports for the ability of laughing at oneself (see Beermann & Ruch, 2011). On a more general level, one might expect that there are psychopaths who are able in using humor (even when maladaptive or for a specific purpose) while others appear rather humorless. Clearly, the callous and unemotional aspect of psychopathy relates negatively to positive forms of humor and especially *playfulness*. One might assume that the more pronounced this aspect is the less humor a person will exert. Results might be different for negative forms of humor such as sarcasm, ridicule, or aggressive variants. However, the component of superficial charm, again, relates positively with the sense of humor. This also relates to greater playfulness. Overall, one might assume that while psychopathic personality traits in general do not relate to the sense of humor, specific facets and behaviors do. Thus, when being charming and being around people, psychopaths may display some levels of humor or playfulness—even when it may turn out as a laughing *at* rather than laughing *with* others. Overall, being in a bad mood, which, of course, opposes humorous productions (cf. McGhee, 1999, 2010) was found as an additional characteristic of psychopaths.

Overall, the study provided further insights on how psychopathic personality traits relate with laughter and humor. This is the first study to address the role of laughter and the way people deal with laughter by others and ridicule. Further studies are needed for substantiating the present findings. For example, a qualitative study with further information on how psychopaths deal with and use humor and laughter in their daily life would be of particular interest. Based on these reports a taxonomy of deviant humor use might be derived. Additionally, it should be highlighted that research in laughter may add to the study of psychopathy in different forms. For example, the distinction of morphologically different forms of laughter might be of interest (Ruch & Ekman, 2001). For example, distinguishing

between the expression of types of laughter related to genuine joy vs. non-joy related types of laughter in social interactions could be of interest for describing emotional experiences associated with psychopathic personality traits (cf. Porter, ten Brinke, Baker, & Wallace, 2011). Examining derogatory laughter might be of interest as blends of laughter and negative emotions might be observed.

5. Limitations

As a limitation of the findings it should be noted that there might be a bias due to cultural differences in the expression of psychopathy in different countries/cultures. For example, studies with Swiss prisoners show comparatively lower expression in psychopathy in inmates in a frequently used measure (Hare's PCL-R, 1991) than in other Western countries such as the US. For example, Endrass, Rossegger, Urbaniok, Laubacher, and Vetter (2008) report a median in the PCL-R of 12 in a population of Swiss sex and violent offenders which is much lower than cut-offs that are used in other countries (see Hare, Clark, Grann, & Thornton, 2000; Penteado Morana, Arboleda-Flórez, & Portela Câmara, 2005; Tengström, Grann, Langström, & Kullgren, 2000). Furthermore, it needs to be noted that we have studied the occurrence of psychopathic traits in a sample of the general population. Therefore, a replication, with clinically diagnosed psychopaths is warranted.

6. Conclusion

The study contributes to developing an understanding on how psychopathic personality traits relate to humor but also dealing with laughter and ridicule. Out of these variables, enjoying laughing at others is a potent predictor of the psychopathic personality trait. Thus, one might conclude that those high in this dimension use laughter primarily in a callous and manipulative way. Also, it seems as if humor is only a vehicle used for exerting superficial charm and serving the own grandiosity. One might assume, that if needed for a purpose, laughing at oneself could also be displayed. If thinking of those at the high end of

the dimension of psychopathic traits, one may conclude that the laughing psychopath laughs *at not with*.

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Table 1

Descriptive Statistics, Reliability, and Correlations with Age and Sex for Measures of Psychopathy, Sense of Humor, and Dispositions Towards Ridicule and Being Laughed at

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>SK</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>Alpha</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>
<i>Kiel PP Inventory-R</i>							
Total score	125.74	34.07	0.47	1.21	.93	-.22**	-.26**
FA1	61.36	23.36	0.60	0.65	.92	-.30**	-.17*
FA2	15.06	7.13	1.04	2.63	.80	-.15*	-.30**
FA3	11.02	5.13	0.58	0.41	.60	-.23**	-.25**
FA4	38.31	8.99	-0.44	0.57	.86	-.06	-.07
<i>Sense of Humor Scale</i>							
Total	5.03	0.76	-0.74	0.98	.93	.02	.04
Playfulness	5.39	0.78	-0.52	0.19	.74	-.01	.14*
Mood	5.47	1.11	-0.94	0.70	.89	.12	.00
Sense of Humor	4.76	0.86	-0.62	0.44	.91	.03	-.01
Laughing at oneself	5.19	1.12	-0.79	0.78	.83	-.01	.05
<i>Laughter and Ridicule</i>							
Gelotophobia	1.78	0.48	0.65	0.35	.86	-.12	-.01
Gelotophilia	2.62	0.50	0.43	-0.01	.85	-.06	-.09
Katagelasticism	2.09	0.51	0.43	-0.01	.88	-.25**	-.28**

Note. *N* = 204-233. *M* = mean, *SD* = standard deviation, *SK* = skewness, *K* = kurtosis; age = correlation with age (Pearson); Sex = correlation with gender (1 = males, 2 = females; Spearman). FA1 = Manipulative/impulsive lifestyle, FA2 = Callous/unemotional, FA3 = Antisocial behavior, FA4 = Superficial charm/grandiosity, Total score = total score for the KPI-R (Revised version of the Kiel Psychopathy Inventory).

p* < .05; *p* < .01.

Table 2

Partial Correlations (Controlled for Gender and Age) Between Psychopathy and Dispositions Towards Ridicule and Being Laughed at and Sense of Humor

<i>KPI-R</i>	<i>Laughter and Ridicule</i>				<i>Sense of Humor Scale</i>			
	<i>Pho</i>	<i>Phi</i>	<i>Kat</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Play</i>	<i>Mood</i>	<i>SoH</i>	<i>Laugh ao</i>
Total	.11	.16*	.60**	-.05	-.04	-.28**	.09	.04
FA1	.25**	.11	.56**	-.13	-.10	-.42**	.02	.00
FA2	.18**	-.14*	.49**	-.37**	-.30**	-.34**	-.23**	-.23**
FA3	-.10	.21**	.28**	.18*	.13	.15*	.24**	-.20**
FA4	-.42**	.40**	.15**	.46**	.41**	.36**	.48**	.36**

Note. $N = 199-225$; Pho = gelotophobia, Phi = gelotophilia, Kat = katagelasticism; Play = playfulness; Mood = positive vs. negative mood; SoH = sense of humor, *Laugh ao* = laughing at oneself; FA1 = Manipulative/impulsive lifestyle, FA2 = Callous/unemotional, FA3 = Antisocial behavior, FA4 = Superficial charm/grandiosity, KPI total = total score for the KPI-R (FA1, FA2, and FA4).

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$.

Table 3.

Summary of Hierarchical Regression Analysis for Variables Predicting Psychopathy in Dispositions towards Ridicule and Being Laughed at and Components of the Sense of Humor (N = 203)

<i>Variable</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>	β
Step 1			
Gender	-0.13	.03	-.28**
Age	0.00	.00	-.19**
Step 2			
Gender	-0.03	.27	-.07
Age	0.00	.00	-.04
Katagelasticism	0.29	.03	.63**
Step 3			
Gender	-0.04	.03	-.07
Age	0.00	.00	-.03
Katagelasticism	0.27	.03	.59**
Mood	-0.03	.01	-.14*

Note. $R^2 = .11$ for Step 1 ($p < .001$); $\Delta R^2 = .33$ for Step 2 ($p < .001$); $\Delta R^2 = .02$ for Step 3 ($p < .05$); Gender (1 = male, 2 = female); Mood = positive vs. negative mood.

* $p < .01$; ** $p < .001$.